

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2671

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4955

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ECON, PFOR, PL

SUBJECT: POLISH PRICE RISES: CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER
COMMENTS

1. ON JULY 14, A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE PZPR TOLD ME THAT THE WORST CONSEQUENCE OF THE JUNE 24-25 DEBACLE WAS NOT THE CHAOTIC ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY -- IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, THE MEASURES ANNOUNCED JULY 14 SHOULD HELP A LITTLE IN STRAIGHTENING THIS OUT -- BUT THE DEPRESSION, DEFENSE-IVENess, AND LOSS OF SELF-CONFIDENCE WHICH IT HAD INDUCED IN THE LEADERSHIP. "YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF THE ARROGANCE OF OUR LEADERSHIP. IT IS NORMAL FOR THE POWERS-THAT-BE TO BECOME INFECTED WITH THE ARROGANCE OF THEIR POWER, BUT OUR LEADERSHIP IS PARTICULARLY BAD IN THIS RESPECT."

2. THE CC MEMBER AGREED WITH ME WHEN I REMARKED THAT THE MEASURES INTRODUCED IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PUBLISHED IN THE JULY 14 PRESS WERE UNLIKELY TO STIMULATE AN EFFECTIVE, LONG-TERM RISE IN THE PRODUCTION OF MEAT, SUFFICIENT TO CATCH UP WITH DEMAND.

3. A MAN WHO FERVENTLY BELIEVES THAT THE POLISH SYSTEM MUST MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF GREATER DEMOCRACY (IN THE WESTERN MEANING OF THE WORD), THE CC MEMBER CONCLUDED BY SAYING, "I AM TERRIBLY WORRIED THAT, AS A RESULT OF THIS CATASTROPHE, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE WEST WILL TURN ITS BACK ON US. WHEN I READ THE WESTERN

PRESS, I SEE THERE THAT WESTERN BANKERS AND BUSINESSMEN ARE NOW VIEWING POLAND WITH GREAT MISTRUST. I CAN UNDERSTAND THIS. BUT YOUR COUNTRY IS THE LEADER OF THE WEST. PLEASE TELL YOUR GOVERNMENT IT MUST NOW TURN ITS BACK ON US, OR WE WILL SLIP BACK INTO SOME SORT OF NEW GOMULKAISM."

4. I SAID THAT, FOR OUR PART, WE CONSIDERED THAT THE BASIC ECONOMIC FACTS IN POLAND HAD NOT CHANGED. NATURALLY, WE WERE CONSIDERING CAREFULLY THE STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE REGIME TO GET ITSELF OUT OF THE HOLE IT HAD DUG FOR ITSELF. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, I SAID, WAS WELL AWARE OF THE DISTASTEFUL ALTERNATIVE WITH WHICH POLAND WOULD BE CONFRONTED IF IT SHOULD BE UNABLE TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE WEST.
DAVIES

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NNN

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